

Toxic Substances Management Strategy and Action Plan for the Georgia Basin

Gevan Mattu, Christine Garrett
Environment Canada*

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The BC/Washington Environmental Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1992 to jointly address environmental concerns in shared waters of the Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia. The Canadian Toxics Work Group (TWG) was established under the auspices of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin (PS/GB) International Task Force. This multi-agency group was charged with identifying and setting priorities on toxics issues, developing recommendations for both research and monitoring and management actions, and preparing an action plan for the Georgia Basin. The preparation of the action plan for addressing toxic substances in the Georgia Basin commenced in two phases. Phase 1 involved the identification of substances of interest, the preparation of chemical profiles, and inventory of sources of these substances, and a review of existing information on the transboundary transport of contaminants. Phase 2 involved the identification of priority research and monitoring needs in the Georgia Basin and the identification of cost-effective management options and mitigative measures for addressing toxic substances. This presentation provides a summary of both the process employed by the TWG and the results of work group initiatives in the preparation of an action plan for the control of toxic substances in the Georgia Basin.